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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 18 totaled an estimated 17.6 billion ton-miles, 2.0 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 20 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 342.4 billion ton-miles, down 3.6 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 18 totaled 389,296, down 5.2 percent from last year, but 2.1 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 5.1 percent in the East, 8.1 percent in the South and 3.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 17 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment increased by 1,969 cars (9.2 percent) and metallic ores showed a gain of 1,187 cars (5.9 percent). Twelve of 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 11 totaled 87,111 trailers and/or containers, 3.4 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 19 weeks of the year was 1,598,154 trailers and/or containers, down 3.9 percent from 1984.

The figures for flatcar loadings in the weekly TOFC/COFC report have been discontinued. The increased use of longer trailers has made the figures less and less comparable to the past, as many flatcars now carry only one trailer, where they carried two before.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/18/85:

	Loadings in Week ended May 18, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	16,073	D	7,691	32.4	I	53	0.3
Other farm products	3,519	D	386	9.9	I	73	2.1
Metallic ores	21,413	I	1,187	5.9	I	4,049	23.3
Coal	119,233	D	2,157	1.8	I	5,250	4.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,028	D	1,976	15.2	D	2,706	19.7
Nonmetallic minerals	10,956	D	1,568	12.5	D	638	5.5
Grain mill products	10,265	D	481	4.5	I	220	2.2
Food and kindred products	10,932	I	349	3.3	D	71	0.6
Primary forest products	12,417	D	2,294	15.6	I	774	6.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,806	I	620	8.6	I	483	6.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,887	D	436	3.0	I	375	2.8
Chemicals and allied products	24,693	D	2,198	8.2	D	1,135	4.4
Petroleum products	4,474	D	276	5.8	D	53	1.2
Stone, clay and glass products	11,427	D	673	5.6	D	224	1.9
Coke	5,542	D	131	2.3	I	620	12.6
Metals and products	9,204	D	1,035	10.1	I	486	5.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,305	I	1,969	9.2	I	1,084	4.9
Waste and scrap materials	8,703	D	1,705	16.4	I	26	0.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,231	D	887	12.5	D	410	6.2
All other carloads	58,057	D	1,273	2.1	D	276	0.5
LCL traffic	131	D	111	45.9	D	30	18.6
Total Cars Loaded	389,296	D	21,153	5.2	I	7,950	2.1
Corresponding week of 1984	410,449						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (20 weeks)	7,446,257	7,849,397	D 5.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
19 Weeks ended May 11	324.8	337.3	D 3.7
Week ended May 18	17.6	18.0	D 2.0
20 weeks cumulative	342.4	355.3	D 3.6

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